

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand*

Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"We Have Come to Worship"

Moore arr. Hayes

*The Call to Worship

We are summoned here by our holy God, who calls us each by name, and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.

From classroom and office and kitchen and carpool, we are called into God's presence.

Young and old and middle-aged, individuals and families, soft spoken and outspoken, we hear our names being called to join in worship.

This house of worship is a place to pursue God's vision for all people: unity and joy and faith, expressed through different gifts.

Praise the Lord!

* Hymn

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

#16

**Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy never ceasing
call for songs of loudest praise.**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet
sung by flaming tongues above.**

**Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.**

**Here I raise to thee an altar;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.**

*Invitation to Confession

*** Prayer of Confession**

God of creation, we close our eyes and see your kingdom where everyone is fed and cared for. We long for that world, but hear the voices of this world telling us we are crazy or naive to believe that world can be here. We confess that we have not always used our voices or our gifts where you have called us. Forgive us and give us courage to create the world we design with you. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

God does not deal with us according to our iniquities. Bless the Lord, who forgives all our iniquity, heals all our diseases, and redeems our lives. God is merciful and gracious, removing our transgressions from us. The god of steadfast love leads us from our bondage into freedom from our sins. Praise God!

Children's Time

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Pastor Katie Jo

**Child of God your loving parent,
Learn to listen for God's call
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
Trust and love God more than all.**

Special Music

"I Surrender All"

Van de Venter arr. Keveren

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:1-9 & Luke 13:1-9

Isaiah 55:1-9

An Invitation to Abundant Life

55 Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread

and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13:1-9

Repent or Perish

13 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	<i>“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”</i>	#73
There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.	For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.	
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good! There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.	If our love were but more simple, we would rest upon God's word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.	

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer *(In Unison)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John’s UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** (*In Unison*)

Faithful God, with these gifts, grant food and drink to all your children as we share from your bounty. Nourish the spirits of all who give and all who receive, and extend to us the healing we most need. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***Hymn**

"O God in Whom All Life Begins"

O God in whom all life begins,
who births the seed to fruit,
bestow your blessing on our lives;
here let your love find root.
Bring forth in us the Spirit's gifts
of patience, joy, and peace;
deliver us from numbing fear,
and grant our faith increase.

Unite in mutual ministry
our minds and hands and hearts
that we may have the grace to seek
the power your peace imparts.
So let our varied gifts combine
to glorify your Name
that in all things by word and deed
we may your love proclaim.

Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,
enlarge our trust and care;
so bind us in community
that we may risk and dare.
Be with us when we gather here
to worship, sing, and pray;
then send us forth in power and faith
to live the words we say.

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Rev Rich Brandon**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Phil Difani**
Piano Duet: **Karen Rocchio & Ruth Notch**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Jamaica** this week

We pray for
Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina,
Rev. Peter Muschinske, Anita Paz and Gloria Vaclavik.

Please let us know your prayer concerns.

If you have private prayer concerns please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke

<p>03/30/25 Service Liturgist: Ellen Brandon Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Phil Difani Special Music: Flute</p>	<p>04/06/25 Service Liturgist: Warren Stemme Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Lynn Potts Communion Service: Carolyn Golfin & Judy Dierberg Special Music: Handbells</p>	<p>04/13/25 Service Liturgist: Carolyn Golfin Usher Team: Jim Pisoni Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Lynn Potts Special Music: Violin</p>
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Council Meeting, Bullet Points from March 17.

1. June 1st is **Ronald McDonald House** dinner, volunteers and donation appreciated. Contact Monica Hart.
2. June 8th **Pentecost**. Planning a Community reach out – think **Block Party!** Volunteers needed for food, desserts, and to hand out flyers in the neighborhood.
3. **Pastor** Katie Jo will be volunteering at **Camp MOVAL** week of **June 22 – 27**.
4. July 11-15, **General Synod** is meeting in Kansas City, again looking for volunteers.
5. **VBS** is July 21 – 25, Lots of help needed!!!

... Looking Ahead

Sun	3/23	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Mon	3/24	10:00 AM	Lenten Study, join us.
Tue	3/25	10:00 AM	Book Group “The Second Life of Mirielle West”
Tue	3/25	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night join us.
Wed	3/26	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due End Of Day
Thu	3/27	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship join us.
Sun	3/30	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	3/30	10:00 AM	One Great Hour of Sharing offering
Sun	3/30	11:00 AM	Speaker, Dr. Curtis Cain Rockwood Schools Superintendent
Mon	3/31	10:00 AM	Lenten Study join us.
Wed	4/2	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Thu	4/3	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	4/6	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
Sun	4/6	11:00 AM	Christian Education
Mon	4/7	10:00 AM	Lenten Study 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7
Wed	4/9	9:30 AM	Bellefontaine cemetery tour (limit 10)
Wed	4/9	5:00 PM	Newsletter Articles Due EOD
Sun	4/13	10:00 AM	Palm Sunday
Sun	4/13	11:00 AM	General Synod Volunteer information session
Mon	4/14	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Thu	4/17	8:00 AM	Bimonthly Newsletter
Sun	4/20	10:00 AM	Easter

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities
<https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>



online giving



One Great Hour of Sharing Donation



News & Events

**2025 Pastoral Relations Committee
Role and Contact Info**

Here is a quick overview about the ROLE for St. John's UCC's Pastoral Relations Committee and each member's CONTACT INFORMATION. The committee's role is to support and maintain open communication between the church's pastor and the members of the congregation. With an open and honest communication bridge, the pastor is provided information about what the church congregation is thinking, a framework for creativity, ideas, improvements, and possible conflict. Please also feel free to share "positive feedback", whatever you like or exceeds your expectations. All information is always kept confidential.

May you and your family be blessed throughout 2025!
Your 2025 Pastoral Relations Committee

Your team:

Pastor Katie Jo Bielke

(Suggested first contact)

Ofc - (636) 532-0540 Ext 202

Cell - (830) 305-3684

Pastorkatiejo@stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

Larry Sontag (Committee Chairperson)

Cell - 314.503.0020

Lacsontag@gmail.com

Lee Difani

Cell - 314.814.3030

Leedifani56@gmail.com

Mike Scherr

Cell - 314.343.6380

Mscherr44@gmail.com

Join us on Sundays

9:00 a.m. - **Fellowship** in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. - **Sunday School**

10:00 a.m. - **Worship**

In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

15370 Olive Blvd.

Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

**Sign up for Activities easily using the camera on your mobile phone
and the QR codes below**

VBS 7/21 – 7/25



Volunteer Now

Lenten Study



Monday 10 AM

**Women's Game
Night**



3/25

Table Fellowship



3/27

**Dr. Curtis Cain
Rockwood**



3/30



Butter braids fundraiser ECC



Bellefontaine Cemetery Tour